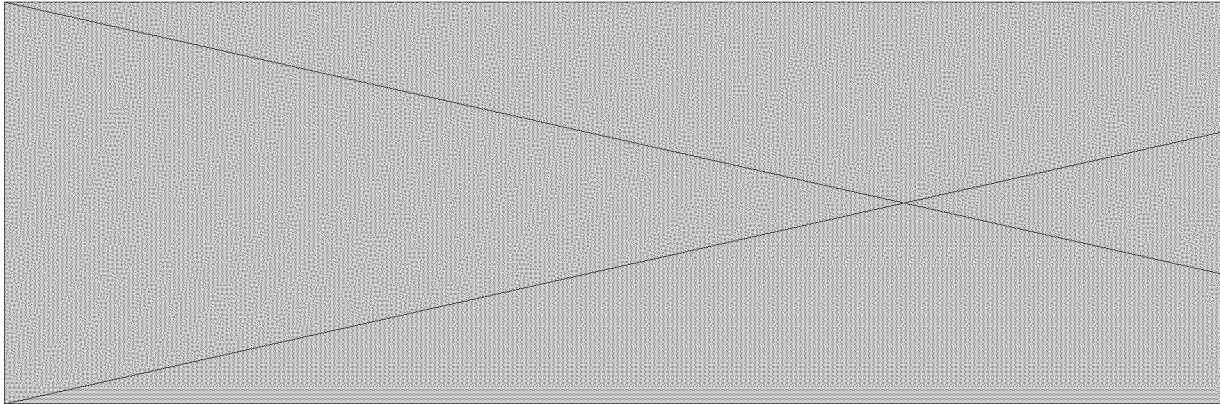


To: Stoner, Nancy[Stoner.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Center for Effective Government
Sent: Tue 1/28/2014 3:06:35 PM
Subject: Government Matters Vol. 2 No. 2



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[Almost Heaven? West Virginia Contamination Highlights Long-standing Problems with Chemical Oversight in U.S.](#)

On Jan. 9, a major chemical spill occurred at a storage facility owned and operated by Freedom Industries when a failed above-ground storage tank leaked into the Elk River in West Virginia. Located only 1.5 miles upstream of a major public water system, the spill contaminated the drinking water supply of over 300,000 residents in nine downstream counties.

News & Analysis

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[State of the Union: What the President Should Say about Inequality and Fiscal Policy](#)

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a "bully pulpit" as "a public office or position of authority that provides its occupant with an outstanding opportunity to speak out on any issue." President Theodore Roosevelt was the first to call the White House a bully pulpit, and he and other heads of the executive branch have used it as a platform to

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From The Fine Print

[Corners Cut in Outsourced Background Checks: A Case for the Public Sector](#)

**E-Gov Spotlight:
Informing the
Public about Air
Quality**

raise the profile of various issues and push forward an agenda for change. The most regular, high-profile instance of highlighting priority issues is the annual "State of the Union" address (President Franklin Delano Roosevelt first called it that in 1934), where the president addresses a joint session of Congress huddled together in the House chamber. It is likely that President Barack Obama will touch on many issues related to fiscal policy in his State of the Union speech Tuesday. Some of them have been previewed in recent months; others are simply unavoidable. Then there are topics that he *should* talk about but may not make it into his speech.

Open, Accountable Government

E-Gov Spotlight: Informing the Public about Air Quality

During the week of Jan. 20, the air quality in Utah's Salt Lake City region and parts of California hit red-alert status – meaning that the air was unhealthy for everyone and was especially harmful to sensitive groups like children, the elderly, and those with chronic respiratory conditions like asthma. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) forecasts and posts air quality levels in an easy, color-coded format on a website called [AIRNow](#). The site offers users a means to explore air quality levels in their area and ways to protect their health against the impacts of air pollution.

On Jan. 22, the Justice Department alleged in a court document that a contractor that conducts background security investigations for the U.S. government committed fraud for more than four years on more than 650,000 investigations for personnel seeking clearance to access secret classified government information.

Find more posts on our blog, [The Fine Print](#).

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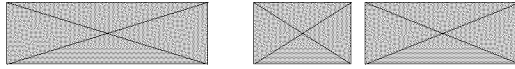
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